**World History Honors (ABZ)** Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Annotate the following reading, and then answer the question(s) that follow.***

**The Expansion of Islam**

Immediately after Muhammad's death a civil war broke out among many of the Arab tribes who wanted to break off from the newly created Islamic state. Once these rebellions were put down, Islam embarked on a succession of political and military success that resulted in the establishment of a vast empire and the flourishing of theology, medicine, science, technology, art, philosophy, and literature.

Two great empires grew during this time. The first, called the Umayyad Empire, lasted for about 90 years (661-750). Much of the early military expansion of Islam happened during the Umayyad Period. The Umayyads conquered all of the Persian empire and half the Roman (Byzantine) empire. They spread across North Africa, conquered Spain and Portugal, and marched across Europe until they were finally repulsed in the heart of France by Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours in 732. In the East, they extended the empire's borders to the Indian subcontinent. The Umayyads made Damascus their capital and established a centralized, Arab-dominated kingdom with a strong civil service that made Arabic the language of government and eventually the main language of most of North Africa and the Middle East.

Though the Umayyads relied on Islam for legitimacy and as a justification for their conquests, and despite their accomplishments, by 720 anti-Umayyad sentiment was widespread. Non-Arab Muslims resented their second class status under Umayyad rule, which they saw as contrary to Islamic egalitarianism. Others saw them as corrupt usurpers, and many pious Muslims viewed the court's extravagant lifestyle as foreign to the example established by Muhammad.

In 747, an opposition movement lead by a freed Abbasid slave overthrew the Umayyads, establishing the long-lived Abbasid empire (750-1258) with Baghdad as its capital. As the Abbasid's came into power under the banner of Islam, they made great efforts to publicly align their government with Islam. They became patrons of Islamic philosophy, scholarship, art and science. As another departure from the past, Abbasid political success was not based on conquest, but on trade, commerce, industry, and agriculture. Islamic law, the Sharia, was developed during this time and remains their greatest contribution to Islam.

This golden age began to come to an end as the Abbasids encountered various military threats, both from within and without. Abbasid political unity fell apart as various local governors began to assert leadership as heads of semiautonomous states.

It was also during this time too that the Christian West launched a series of military attacks in Europe reconquer Spain, Italy, and Sicily, while also launching a series of crusades or "holy wars" to capture the holy land of Palestine (1095 to 1453) and the sacred city of Jerusalem.

In the first Crusade, the Christians stormed Jerusalem in 1099, killing all Muslims, women and children alike, an event that is still etched deeply in the collective memory of Muslims. Muslim holy sites were desecrated or destroyed, and the Dome of the Rock was converted into a church. This Christian rule of Jerusalem lasted less than 100 years, however, before a Muslim army drove out the Christians. Unlike the Christian conquerors, the Muslims spared the lives of all civilians and noncombatants. For the next two centuries, the Muslims and the Christians fought a series of holy wars for control of the holy land. The fighting came to a stop when a Turkish Muslim army conquered the Byzantium Empire in 1453, and renamed its capital (Constantinople) Istanbul. This city became the seat of the Ottoman Empire.

The Abbasids were also challenged from the east during the time of the Crusades. In the thirteenth century, the Mongol armies of Genghis Khan poured out of Central Asia, destroying Baghdad and slaughtering its Muslim inhabitants, including the Abbasid rulers.

Out of the demise of the Abbasid empire, three smaller Muslim empires eventually emerged: the Ottoman Turkish Empire centered in Istanbul and controlling major portions of North Africa, the Arab world, and Eastern Europe; the Persian Safavid empire, with its capital in Isfahan; and the Mughal Empire centered in Deli and encompassing most of the Indian subcontinent (India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh). The political stability of these states contributed to a new cultural florescence in each of these empires.

Eventually, these empires lost ground to European industrialism, military might, and colonial aspirations. With the fall of the Ottoman Empire after World War One, the period of Empire in Islam came to an end. Today Islam exists within over 50 separate countries, and in many cases is subsumed within the political and cultural norms of these diverse societies.

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*Summarize what you learned from this reading (if you think you haven’t learned, re-read!):*